

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A spark plug comprising:

a center electrode; and

a side electrode located on at least one side of said center electrode so that a spark discharge gap is formed between said center electrode and said side electrode, wherein:

at least one of said center electrode and said side electrode includes a precious metal member facing said spark discharge gap; and

said precious metal member contains Ir as a main component, ~~0.3 mass% to 43 mass% of Rh, 5.2 mass% to 41 mass% of Ru, and 0.4 mass% to 19 mass% of Ni~~ 6.5 mass% to 22 mass% of Rh, 5.2 mass% to 24 mass% of Ru, and 0.4 mass% to 3.5 mass% of Ni.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The spark plug as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein said precious metal member contains 8 mass% to 20 mass% of Ru.

6. (Previously Presented) The spark plug as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

precious metal member contains at least one of Pt, Pd, Re and Os.

7. (Previously Presented) The spark plug as claimed in claim 1, wherein said precious metal member contains an oxide (inclusive of a composite oxide) of an element selected from Sr, Y, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Ti, Zr and Hf.

8. (Original) The spark plug as claimed in claim 7, wherein said precious metal member contains at least one of  $Y_2O_3$ ,  $La_2O_3$ ,  $ThO_2$  and  $ZrO_2$ .

9. (Currently Amended) A spark plug comprising:  
a center electrode; and  
a side electrode located on at least one side of said center electrode so that a spark discharge gap is formed between said center electrode and said side electrode, wherein:  
at least one of said center electrode and said side electrode includes a precious metal member facing said spark discharge gap; and  
said precious metal member contains Ir as a main component, ~~and Rh, Ni and Ru~~  
in a range of from 8 mass% to 20 mass%, Ni in an amount not smaller than 0.4 mass% and smaller than the mass% of Ru contained in said precious metal member, and Rh.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The spark plug as claimed in claim 9 or 10,~~

A spark plug comprising:

a center electrode; and

a side electrode located on at least one side of said center electrode so that a spark

discharge gap is formed between said center electrode and said side electrode, wherein:

at least one of said center electrode and said side electrode includes a precious

metal member facing said spark discharge gap; and

said precious metal member contains Ir as a main component, and Rh, Ru in a range of  
from 8 mass% to 20 mass%; wherein a content of Rh contained in said precious metal member is  
in an amount not smaller than 0.3 mass% and not larger than a content of Ru contained in said  
precious metal member, and Ni .

12. (New) The spark plug as claimed in claim 9, wherein the precious metal member contains Rh in a range of from 0.3 mass% to 43 mass% and Ni in a range from 0.4 mass% to 19 mass% .

13. (New) The spark plug as claimed in claim 9, wherein the precious metal member contains Rh in a range from 0.5 mass% to 36 mass%, and Ni in a range of 0.4 mass% to 11 mass%.

14. (New) The spark plug as claimed in claim 9, wherein the precious metal member contains Rh in a range from 1 mass% to 31 mass%, and Ni in a range from 0.4 mass% to 7 mass%.

15. (New) the spark plug of claim 11, wherein the precious metal member contains 0.5 or more mass% of Rh, and Ni in a range from 0.4 mass% to 11 mass%.